# Alaska Court System Interpreter Testing Policy for Court-Certification

This policy outlines the process and standards for interpreter certification within the Alaska Court System, focusing on both written and oral examination requirements and retesting procedures for court-certified interpreters to ensure competency in legal interpretation. Court-certification is currently available in 20 languages. Court-interpreting competency in other languages will be assessed through alternative processes.

## 1. Examination Requirements

To become a certified court interpreter in Alaska, candidates must pass both the National Center for State Courts’ Written and Oral Exams. These exams assess the linguistic and interpretation skills necessary for courtroom proceedings.

### 1.1 Written Exam

* Candidates must pass the Written Exam with a minimum score of 80% to qualify for the Oral Exam.
* The Written Exam evaluates knowledge of court terminology, ethics, and professional standards.
* This requirement ensures that interpreters possess the foundational knowledge necessary for court interpretation.

### 1.2 Oral Exam

* After passing the Written Exam, candidates are eligible to take the Oral Exam, which evaluates their practical interpretation skills in consecutive, simultaneous, and sight translation modes.
* The passing score for the Oral Exam is a minimum of 70% in each of the three exam sections.

## 2. Retesting Policies

### 2.1 Retesting for the Written Exam

Candidates who do not pass the Written Exam on their first or second attempt may retake it after 6 months. Candidates who do not pass the Written Exam three times are required to wait for one year from the date of the third exam before retaking the exam. They may also be required to undergo a formal review by the Alaska Court System to assess their readiness for further attempts, including a mandatory completion of advanced training in legal interpretation.

### 2.2 Retesting for the Oral Exam

Candidates who do not pass the Oral Exam will have the following options for retesting:

### 2.2.1 First Failure

* Candidates who do not pass more than one section may retake a different version of the entire exam after a minimum waiting period of six months from the date of the initial exam.
* Candidates who do not pass one section may retake a different version of that section of the exam after a minimum waiting period of six months from the date of the initial exam.
* During this waiting period, candidates are encouraged to seek additional training or practice to improve their interpretation skills.

### 2.2.2 Second Failure

* Candidates who do not pass more than one section of the Oral Exam a second time may retake a different version of the exam after another minimum waiting period of six months from the date of the second exam.
* Candidates who do not pass one section a second time may retake a different version of that section of the exam after another minimum waiting period of six months from the date of the second exam.
* Candidates must demonstrate efforts to improve their skills, such as attending workshops or completing relevant coursework, before retesting.

### 2.2.3 Third Failure

* Upon a third failure of either the entire exam or any section(s) of the exam, candidates must wait a minimum of one year from the date of the third exam before retaking the exam.
* At this stage, candidates may be required to undergo a formal review by the Alaska Court System to assess their readiness for further attempts, including a mandatory completion of advanced training in legal interpretation and a set number of mentorship sessions with a court-certified interpreter at the expense of the candidate.